

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on January 11, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Terry Bruce
Derek Schmidt - excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Patty Clark, Director of Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Patty Clark reported on the Fiscal 2005 and Fiscal 2006 to date loans made to agriculturally related business entities. An itemized list of the value added loans was furnished. Many of the loans were for agritourism projects, including the wine industry. A report was also given on the Business Enhancement Grants. A large percentage of the Fiscal 2006 Loans was for ethanol and biodiesel projects. Ms. Clark also reported that some grants have been made to conduct studies and assessments on the economic impact of renewable energy industries. She also reviewed a map indicating proposed ethanol or biodiesel plants under construction or currently in existence (Attachment 1).

Ms. Clark took questions from the Committee.

Ms Clark said that two of the best programs for small companies is the trade show assistance and business enhancement program. Increased sales of \$431,000 from businesses was reported as a result of these programs. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Kansas companies received total allocations of \$93,233 through the Branded Program allowing businesses to participate in international marketing. Grants were also given to the grape and wine industry. Since June 2004, \$350,000 has been used to enhance the grape and wine industry. As a result of the Agritourism Promotion Act Thirteen, scholarships have been awarded. There is an e-newsletter and website (kansasagritourism.org) available.

Ms. Clark stood for more questions. She will e-mail information to all Committee members regarding investments in ethanol and biodiesel plants.

Chairman Taddiken asked for bill introductions. There were none. Secretary of Agriculture, Adrian Polansky, is scheduled to give a presentation on the state of Agriculture in Kansas next week. An informational presentation on carbon sequestration is also planned for next week.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m. The next meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on January 17, 2006 in room 423-S.